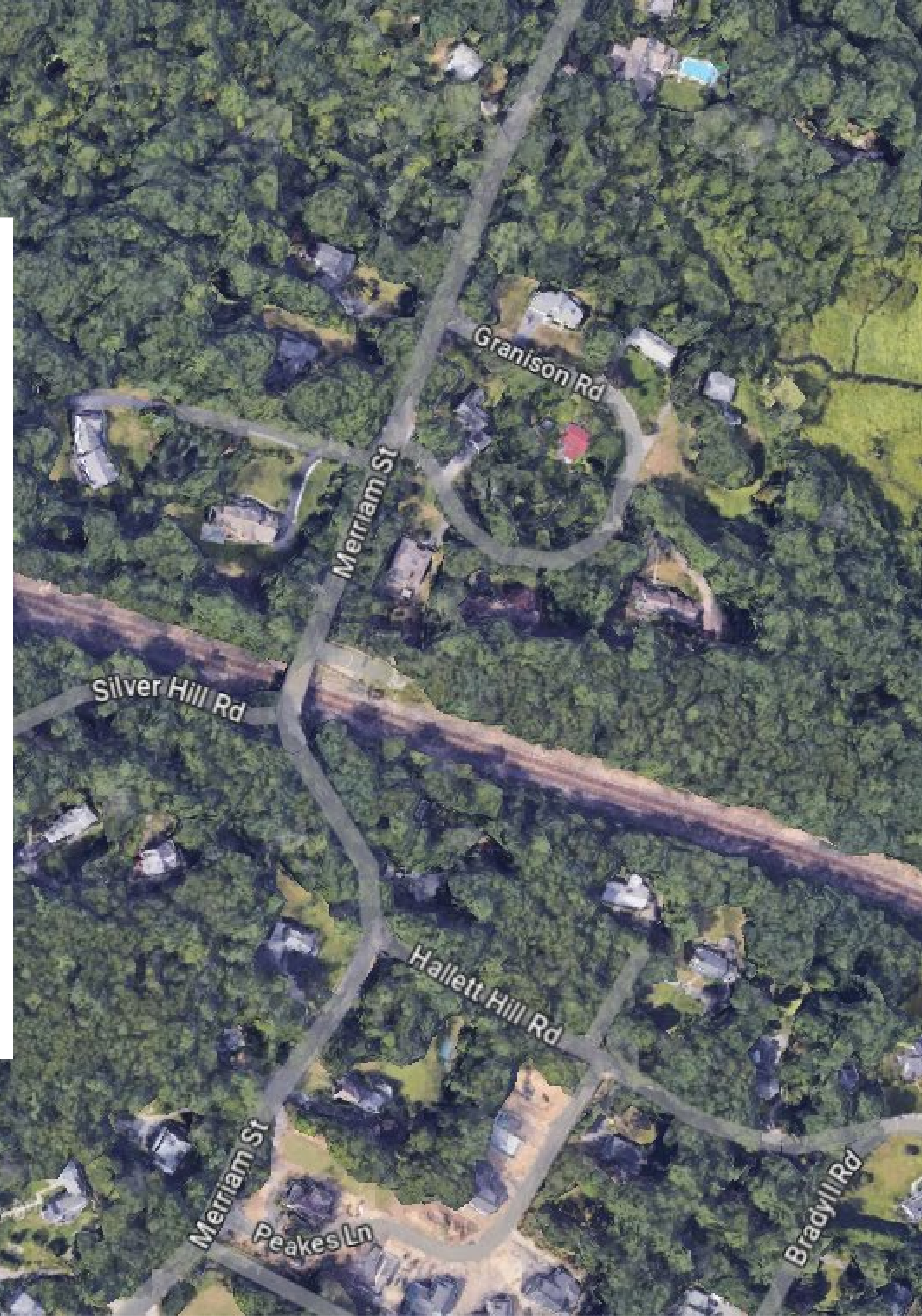




# Merriam Street over MBTA Railroad Bridge Replacement

*Thank you for joining us.*

*This meeting will begin shortly.*





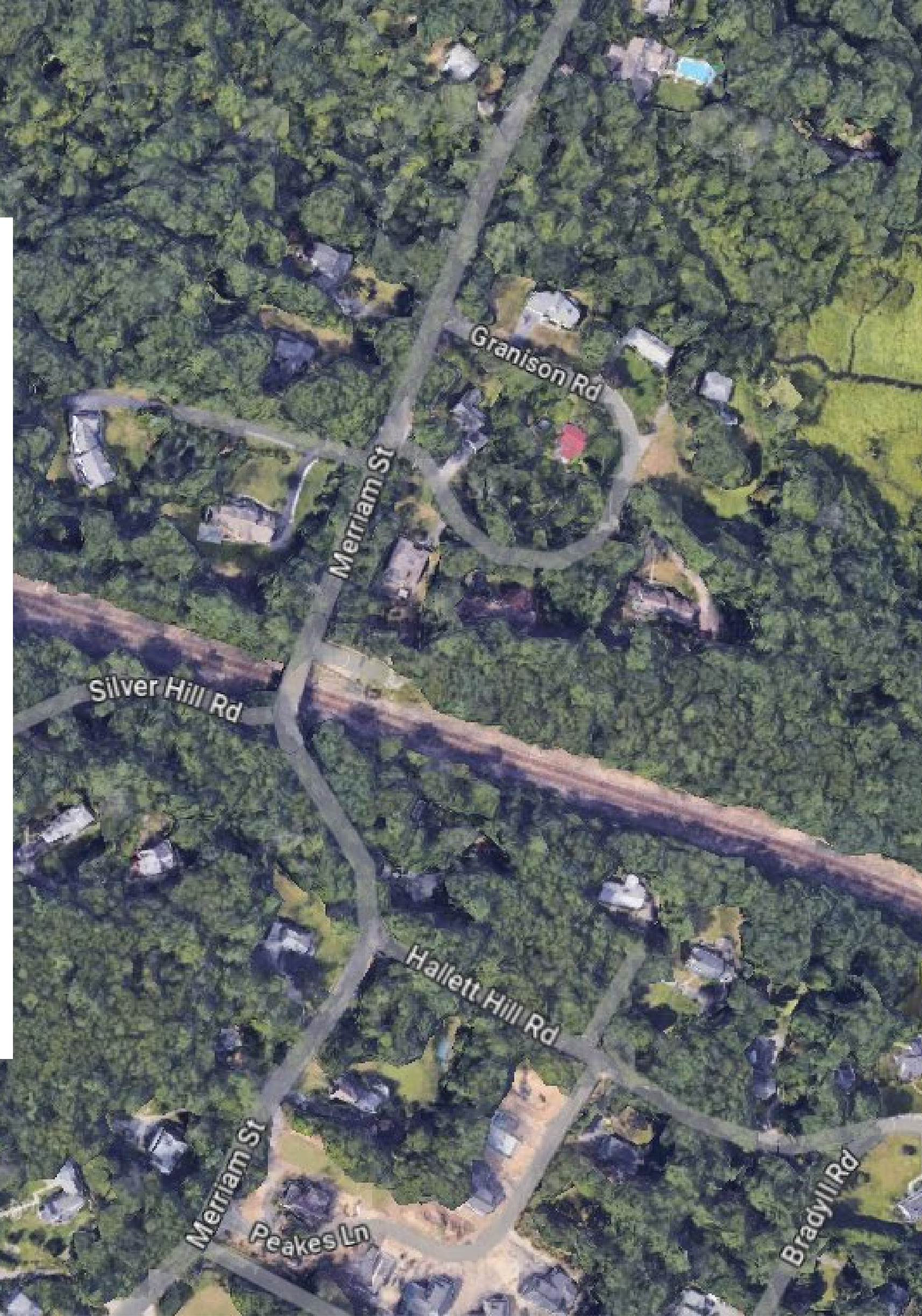


# Merriam Street over MBTA Railroad Bridge Replacement

*Public Information Meeting*

Virtual (Zoom) | November 19, 2024 | 7:00 PM

Project File No. 601628





# Zoom meeting controls



- Listen in English



- Ask a question and share comments



- Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers



- Raise your hand - \*9 for users dialing in and Alt + Y to raise your hand



- If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at **+13126266799**, Webinar ID: **841 9933 6119**



- Use the View button in the upper right-hand corner to adjust the meeting view settings to your preference

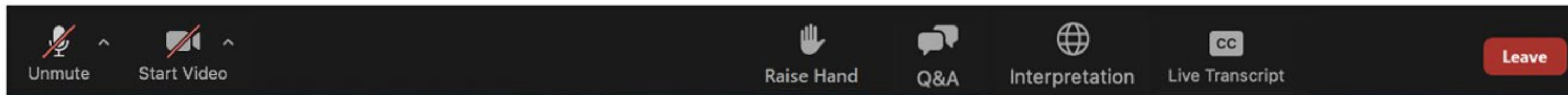


Live Transcript

- Closed captioning automatically generated by Zoom

If you have trouble with the meeting technology during the presentation, please call:

**+1-312-626-6799**





# Public meeting notes and procedures

## Notification of video recording

- This virtual public information meeting will be recorded. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute the video, images, audio, and/or chat transcript.
- All parts of this meeting are considered public record.
- By continuing attendance with this virtual public meeting, you are consenting to participate in a recorded event.
- If you are not comfortable being recorded, please turn off your camera and keep your microphone muted, or you may choose to excuse yourself from the meeting.

## Important notes

- Your microphone and webcam are automatically disabled upon entering the meeting.
- The meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the formal presentation.
- Please take time to respond to our survey at the end of the meeting. Your feedback is important.

**All questions and comments are welcome and appreciated, however we do request that you refrain from any disrespectful comments.**



## Notice of MassDOT's policy on diversity and civil rights

- All MassDOT activities, including public meetings, are free of discrimination.
- MassDOT complies with all federal and state civil rights requirements preventing discrimination based on sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin (limited English proficiency), religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or veteran's status.
- We welcome the diversity from across our entire service area. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/nondiscrimination-in-transportation-program> to reach the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights.

**Thank you for joining our meeting. We appreciate your participation!**



# Agenda

- 01 Introduction
- 02 Project Initiation
- 03 Project Goals
- 04 Alternatives
- 05 Preferred Alternative
- 06 Bike/Pedestrian Impacts
- 07 Abutter Impacts
- 08 Environmental Impacts
- 09 Traffic Impacts
- 10 Construction Approach
- 11 Schedule
- 12 Public Outreach
- 13 Question & Answer



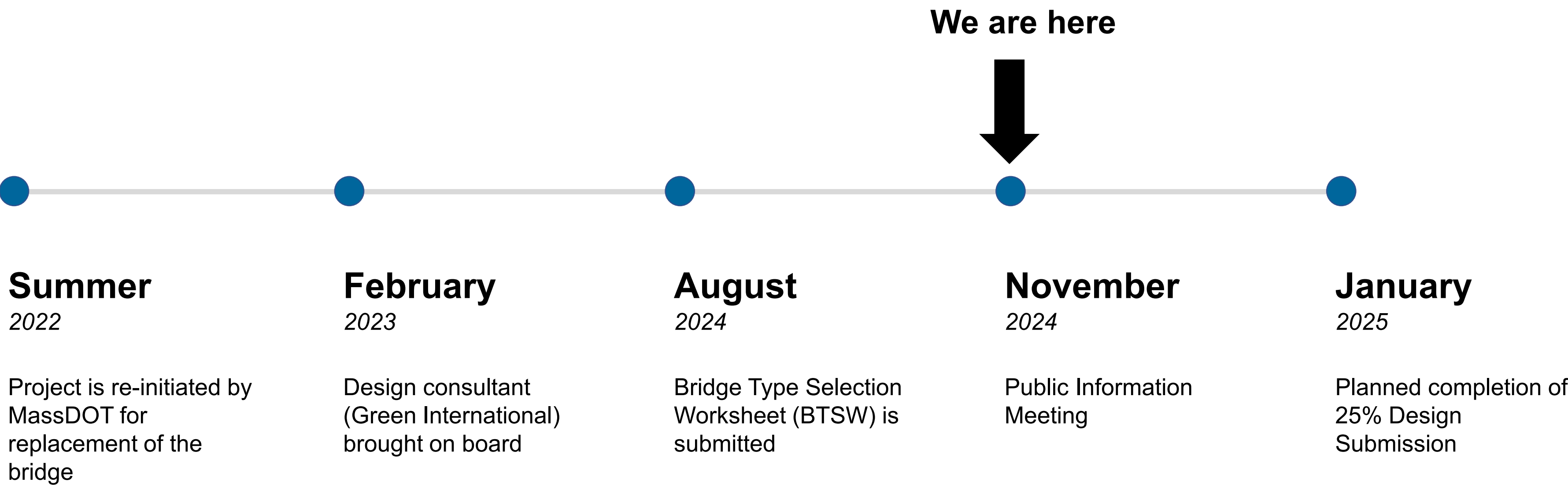


# Presentation Participants

- **MassDOT Project Manager**
  - Christopher Cameron
- **MassDOT Producer/Facilitator**
  - Miranda Briseño and Roy Kirwa
- **MassDOT District 6 Project Development Engineer**
  - Joe Doucette
- **MassDOT Legislative Affairs**
  - Daniel Fielding
- **Town of Weston**
  - Leon Gaumond, Town Manager
  - Tom Cullen, DPW Director
- **Green International, Design Consultant**
  - Bhikhu Khalifa
  - Tiffany Card



# How did we get here?







**Why was this  
project  
initiated?**





## Reasons for Project Initiation

- Bridge condition
- Improve substandard vertical clearances over railroad
- Improve safety for all users



# Weight Posting



# Shoring Tower





# Limited Sidewalk



# Non-Compliant Bridge Rail







**What do we  
want to  
accomplish?**



## Project Goals

- Replace bridge to meet structural capacity requirements
- Improve safety for all users
- Improve vertical clearance over railroad
- Minimize approach work and changes to horizontal alignment (minimize abutter impacts)
- Provide a new bridge that fits with the rural character of the area





**What  
alternatives  
were  
considered?**



# Existing Bridge





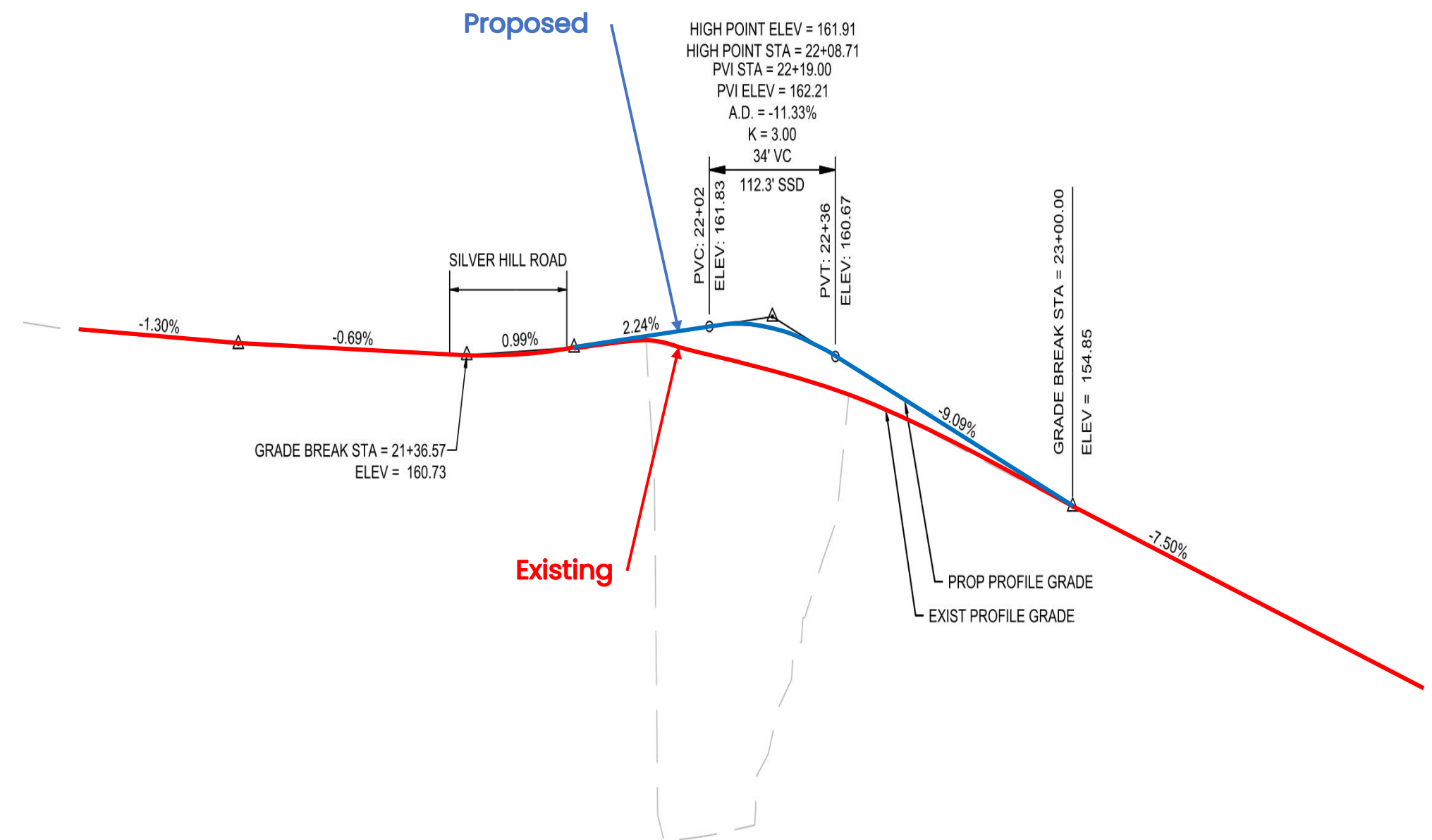
# Existing Bridge





# Alternative Considerations

- **Bridge**
  - Full replacement vs. partial replacement
  - Single span vs. multiple span
  - Steel beams vs. prestressed concrete beams
  - Conventional vs Integral Abutments
- **Traffic Management**
  - Staged construction vs. detour
- **Roadway Horizontal and Vertical Alignments**
  - Maintain existing horizontal alignment
  - Minimize impact to the existing vertical alignment



Exaggerated Vertical Profile



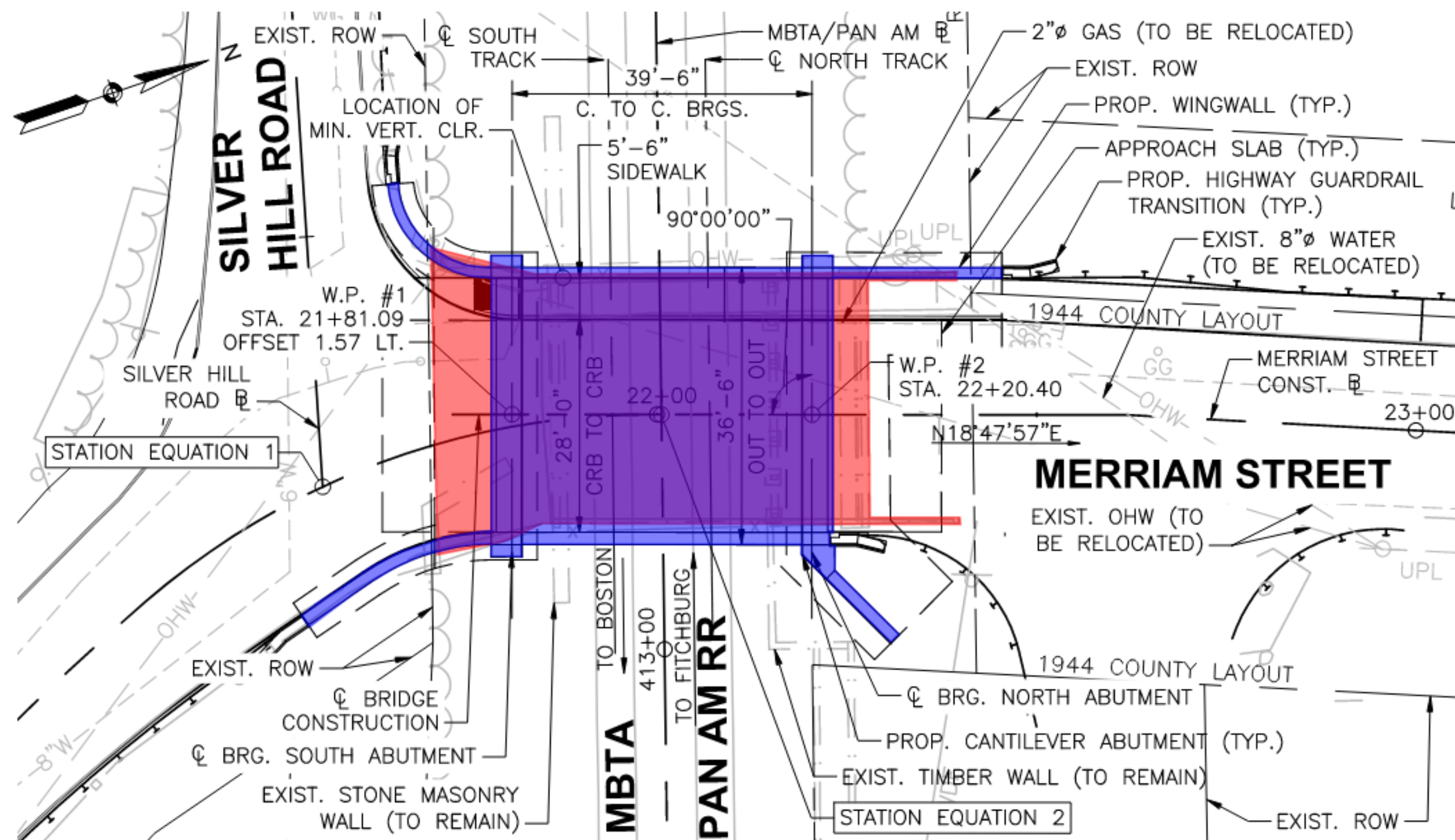


**What is the preferred alternative?**



# Preferred Alternative

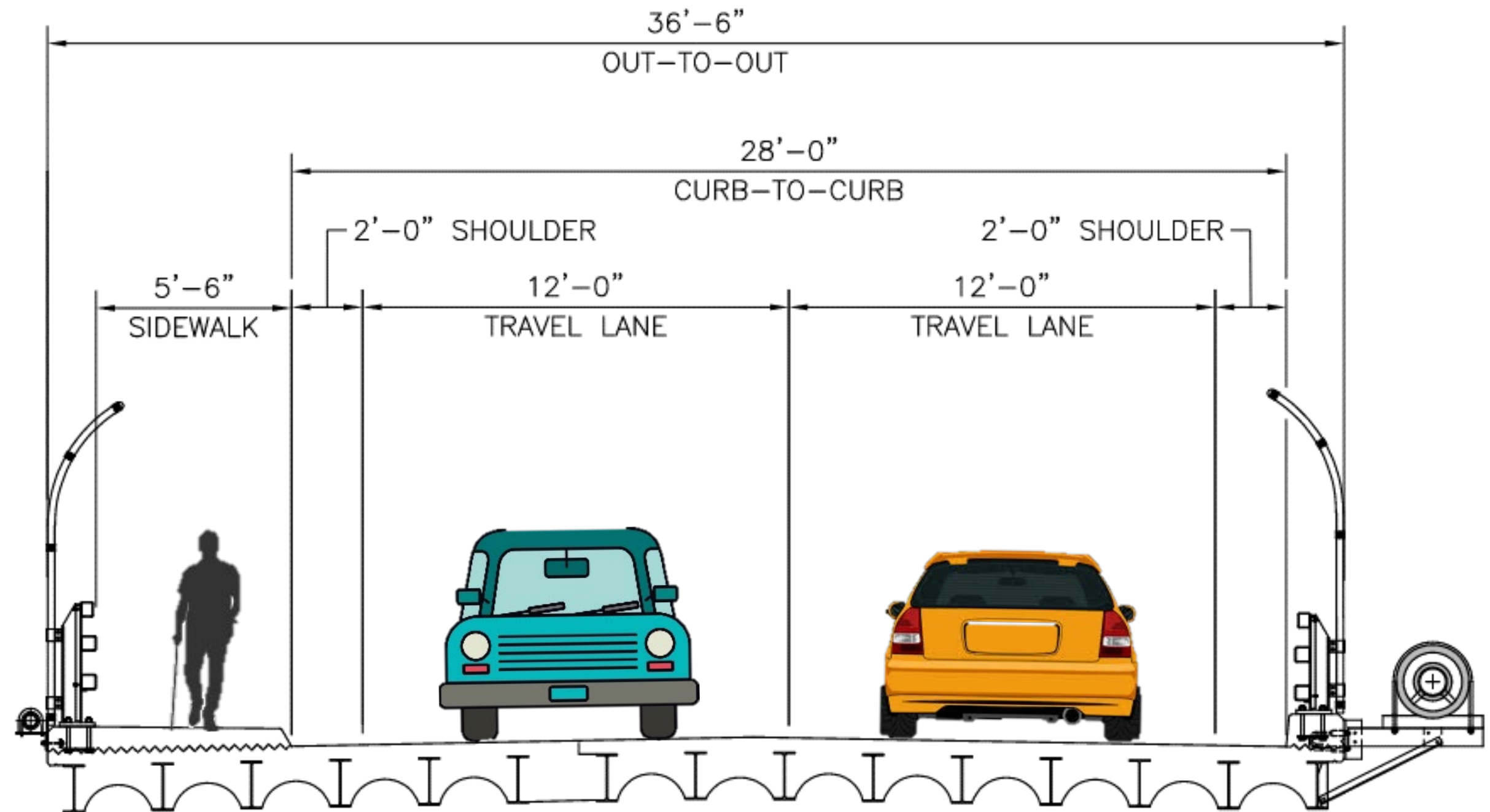
- Maintained existing horizontal alignment
- Slightly widened bridge to provide compliant sidewalk
- Minimized need for retaining walls





## Preferred Alternative

- Single-span steel jacked arch with a concrete deck supported on abutments
- Minimal changes to existing vertical profile
- Minimized superstructure depth
- Improved vertical clearance







**How will  
bicyclists and  
pedestrians  
be impacted?**



# Pedestrians and Bicyclists

- There are existing pedestrian accommodations on the bridge and within the project area
- Project will provide a wider sidewalk on the bridge, which will match the approaches
- Currently there are no specific accommodations for bicyclists on the bridge or in the area.







**How will your  
property be  
impacted?**



# Preliminary Right of Way (ROW) Process

- Preliminary ROW Plans to be developed as part of the upcoming 25% Design
- Extent of work outside the roadway still being determined and feedback from the public is welcome
- Bridge alternative selected to minimize impacts to abutters





**What are the  
environmental,  
cultural  
resource, and  
community  
impacts?**



# Environmental Reviews and Permitting

- Currently at pre-25% Design Phase, still defining potential resource impacts and permits
- Project is a “footprint bridge” project per the 2014 Transportation Bond Bill
- No anticipated impacts to adjacent wetland resource areas
- No environmental permits anticipated at this time



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**





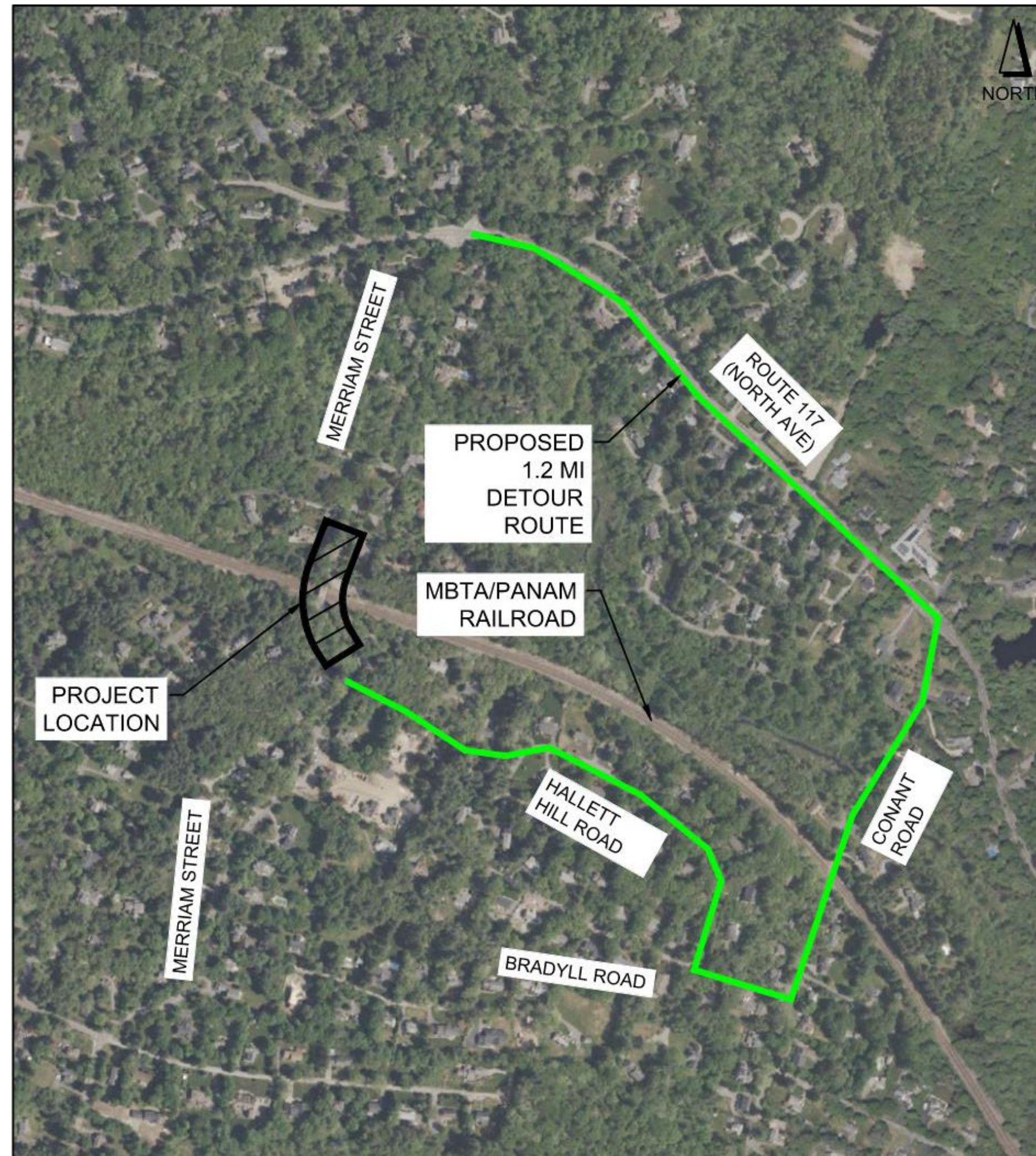


**How will the  
road user be  
affected?**



# Traffic Impacts

- Detour of traffic during construction
- Anticipated local detour route ~1.2 miles







**What is the  
construction  
approach?**



# Construction Approach

- Conventional approach for MassDOT bridge construction
  - Complete design and advertisement for construction (anticipated Summer 2026)
  - Review bids, select Contractor, and award contract
- Traffic management requirements included in Contract Documents
- Anticipate construction to take up to 2 years starting 2027



# Our next steps



Compilation of  
Feedback from Public  
Information Meeting



Complete 25% Design  
& Conduct Design  
Public Hearing



Proceed with 75% and  
Final Design



Prepare Bid  
Documents and  
Advertise (anticipated  
Summer 2026)



Anticipated  
construction 2027 &  
2028





**How will we  
keep you  
informed?**



# Upcoming public outreach

- Design Public Hearing tentatively Winter/Spring 2025





## How to reach us

- Submit email comments to:  
**MassDOTMajorProjects@dot.state.ma.us**
- For project information visit the MassDOT Upcoming Events for Highway Division website at <http://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events> or use the QR Code:
- Submit written comments to:  
Carrie Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer  
MassDOT Highway Division  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116  
Attention: MAJOR PROJECTS DIVISION, PROJECT FILE NO. 601628







Questions and  
answers



## Questions and answers



- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions (Alt + Y if using a phone)



- Submit your questions and comments using the Q&A button



- Please state your name before your question



- Please share only 1 question or comment at a time, limited to 2 minutes, to allow others to participate



- To ask a question via phone, dial \*9 and the moderator will call out the last 4-digits of your phone number and unmute your audio when it is your turn



- Please take a few minutes to complete the survey after the meeting to let us know how your experience was with this virtual meeting

**All questions and comments are subject to disclosure for public records. Please use these functions for project related business only.**





# ***Thank You***

***Merriam Street over MBTA  
Railroad Bridge Replacement***

***Public Outreach Meeting***

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[MassDOTMajorProjects@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTMajorProjects@dot.state.ma.us)

